

P-999/CI-90-373 ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Chair  
Commissioner  
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In the Matter of a Commission  
Initiated Investigation into  
Open Network Architecture

ISSUE DATE: November 22, 1991

DOCKET NO. P-999/CI-90-373

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**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On July 5, 1990, the Commission initiated an investigation into Open Network Architecture (ONA) in Minnesota. ONA is part of the regulatory structure adopted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow the Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOCs) to provide certain enhanced services without establishing a separate subsidiary.

By November 13, 1990, eleven parties had submitted initial comments with the Commission. On January 10, 1991, the Commission issued an order establishing reply and responsive comment periods. Reply comments were to be filed within 90 days of the order and responsive comments within 45 days thereafter. By April 12, 1991, the Commission had received reply comments from five parties.

On May 24, 1991, the Commission issued its ORDER EXTENDING COMMENT PERIOD, which granted the Department of Public Service's (Department's) request to extend the period for filing comments until August 1, 1991. On August 26, 1991, the Commission issued its ORDER ALLOWING TIME EXTENSION. In that Order, the Commission granted the Department's request to extend the responsive comment period to November 1, 1991.

On October 18, 1991, US West Communications, Inc. (the Company) requested a further extension of the time period for submitting responsive comments. Specifically, the Company asked that the deadline for responsive comments be extended to 30 days after the Department has filed and served its reports and recommendations concerning the eight ONA features filed to date.

The Company's request came before the Commission on October 29, 1991.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission finds that the Company's request is reasonable and should be granted, with one minor modification. Instead of the 30 day extension requested by the Company, the Commission will grant an extension to January 15, 1992. This is based on the Department's assurance that it will submit its reports and recommendations on December 1, 1991. If the deadline for filing responsive comments were extended to 30 days after that date, the comments would be due around the Christmas and New Year Holidays. Commenting parties may find it difficult to complete and submit comments if the end of the comment period coincides with these Holidays. The January 15 date will avoid this difficulty and still allow parties the full 30 days as requested.

The reasons for the extension are sound. A 30 day period will help ensure that the parties' comments are responsive to the Department's recommendations and useful to the Commission. No party opposes the request and neither the public interest nor any party's interests will be prejudiced by the delay. The Commission will therefore grant an extension for filing responsive comments to January 15, 1992.

## ORDER

1. The deadline for filing responsive comments is extended to January 15, 1992.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)